

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1035

By Matlock

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Ted Wampler, Sr., of
Lenoir City.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Ted Wampler, Sr., co-founder and chairman of the board of Wampler's Farm Sausage; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wampler started the family business in 1937 with his father, Riley Wampler, and mother, Edith Wampler; as an eleven-year-old boy, he learned the sausage business through his father's butchering and his mother's seasoning; and

WHEREAS, in those bygone days before refrigeration was commonplace, Mr. Wampler's mother ground pork into sausage by hand, and his father butchered as many as eleven hogs a day and sold the sausage door-to-door; and

WHEREAS, the business was shut down due to World War II, but Riley Wampler convinced his son to reopen the slaughterhouse after the war; Ted Wampler invested a substantial amount of money to do so, and they renamed the business Wampler's Wholesale Meats; and

WHEREAS, their delicious country pork sausage soon became a popular grocery item across the region, and an American success story was assured; in 1981, the company's name was changed to Wampler's Farm Sausage; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wampler was much more than just a successful businessman in Lenoir City; he was an exemplary public servant who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wampler served as foreman of the Loudon County Grand Jury, chairman of the Loudon County Board of Education (1975-1980), chairman of the Loudon

County Vocational Governing Board, and a member of the Executive Board of Directors of the Loudon County Rescue Squad; and

WHEREAS, a veteran of the Korean War who served in the U.S. Army, Mr. Wampler was a charter member and past president of the Eaton Ruritan Club, past president of the Tennessee Meat Packers Association, a member of the American Legion, and a member of Avery Lodge #593, Free and Accepted Masons, for well over fifty years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wampler served as justice of the peace in a past era of Tennessee jurisprudence and was the last living justice to have had both legislative and judicial power as a trial justice; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wampler and his wife, Frances, were very active in The Compassionate Friends and served as chapter leaders for many years; he authored the book *Will Our Tears Forever Flow* and often spoke to church and civic groups about understanding grief; and

WHEREAS, both he and Mrs. Frances Wampler have been inducted into the Loudon County Hall of Fame for their many contributions to the community; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wampler expressed his devout faith as a longtime member and Sunday School teacher at Crossroads Church of the Nazarene; and

WHEREAS, this remarkable gentleman is survived by his childhood sweetheart and wife of sixty-five years, Frances Wilburn Wampler; children and spouses, Ruth Ann and Edwin R. Blackburn, Ted, Jr., and Sherri Wampler, and John Edd and Kathy Wampler; son-in-law, Al Hitch; foster daughter, Karen Hansen; foster son, Borce Lazarov and wife, Kristin, and their sons, Constantine and Sebastian; grandchildren and spouses, Sarah and Patrick Phelps, Amy and Jeff Martin, Adam and Ashley Denton, Jim and Lauren Hitch, Stephanie and Eric Pyle, Martha and Dave Behm, Trae Wampler and fiancée, Sadee Hanson, Andrew and Estefania Allen, Kristen and Aaron Gentry, Andrew and Steffie Wampler, Grace and Jace Haun, and John Riley Wampler; great-grandchildren, Marlee and Bailey Pyle, James and Lewis Hitch, Ayrton Allen, Gabriel Gentry, and Clara Kate Haun; special first cousin, Harry Wampler; and special friend, Mary Frances Whitaker; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his daughter, Mary Lee Wampler Hitch; parents, Riley and Edith Phillips Wampler; and great-granddaughters, June Louise and Hazel Ann Denton; and

WHEREAS, Ted Wampler, Sr., leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of the General Assembly remember this exceptional businessman, public servant, and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we celebrate the life and honor the memory of Mr. Ted Wampler, Sr., reflecting fondly upon his successful career in business, his faithful service to his community as a civic leader, and his devout faith as a Christian.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Wampler.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.